

**NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.**

**Only the most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC's office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.**

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Hanosh DATE TYPED: 1/27/02 HB 246

SHORT TITLE: No Hunting and Fishing License Fees for Vets SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST: Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
			0.1	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act \_\_\_\_\_

### REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03			
	(\$1,200.0)	(\$1,200.0)	Recurring	Game Protection Fund
	(\$375.0)	(\$375.0)	Recurring	Federal Funds
	(\$120.0)	(\$120.0)	Recurring	Habitat Stamp

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Legislative Finance Committee files  
 Department of Game and Fish  
 Veteran's Service Commission

## **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 246 amends the current statute that provides free hunting and fishing licenses to disabled veteran's of foreign wars. The bill would eliminate the language that restricts this benefit solely to disabled veterans, and thus making hunting and fishing licenses free to all residents of New Mexico who have served in the armed forces.

### Significant Issues

The Veterans' Service Commission estimates 170,000 veterans reside in New Mexico. The Department of Game and Fish estimates that 31,500 are hunters and fishermen, which represents the population targeted in this bill. The bill is not clear on the issue of whether persons who have served in the armed forces but were dishonorably discharged will receive this benefit.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not carry an appropriation. Enactment of HB 246 would have a substantial fiscal impact on the Department of Game and Fish. The department reports that it has estimated a loss of \$1.2 million to the Game Protection Fund, \$375.0 in federal funds, and \$120.0 in the Habitat Stamp Fund. The impact of these lost revenues would be that the department would require a fee increase in 2004.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The department reports that it would have to hire additional staff to carry out the provisions of the bill.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Are active duty service personnel eligible for this benefit?

MFV/njw